



CAMP  
**RIDGECREST**  
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

# GROUNDBREAKING!

After 78 years, the dream of a chapel is finally being realized



**TURNING DIRT** » In mid-July, members of the Chapel Committee broke ground near the site of the future chapel.

Camp Ridgecrest Alumni & Friends,

For over 75 years, it's been a big dream at Camp Ridgecrest to have a structure solely devoted to the worship of God. So, it is with great pleasure and excitement that we announce to you that on Saturday, July 15, 2006, we officially broke ground for the Chapel!

About 50 people were on hand to witness the event and help with the groundbreaking. Ron Springs, Camp Director, had the honor of turning the first shovel of dirt. Three alumni who

attended the opening of Spilman Lodge in 1942 also participated in the ceremony.

Former Director Dick Burts, whose first came to Camp in 1933, said he was excited to be at both milestone events and that it is a dream come true to begin work on the long-awaited Chapel.

The current plan is to begin construction in August and to have it completed in time for Camp's first Opening Day in June 2007.

Through the generous donations from many alumni and friends, we have raised \$363,958 to date! Of that, we currently have \$301,299 on

hand and \$62,659 in outstanding pledges.

We are also excited to see the contributions gaining momentum. We recently received two significant donations. The first was a \$20,000 gift and the second was a Challenge Gift.

The Challenge Gift works as a matching incentive. For all dollars raised between now and the end of September, the donor will match up to \$30,000 – a potential \$60,000!

Though we have much to be proud of, work remains to be done. So that we can get the full potential of the Challenge Gift, we are sending this letter with a return envelope to all Alumni and Friends.

**Please keep both Camp and our Chapel project – especially this challenge gift – in your thoughts and prayers.**

**If you can help us reach the goal and fulfill the dream, please return the envelope with a**

**donation enclosed. Or you may go online to [www.ridgecrestcamps.com/alumni/donations](http://www.ridgecrestcamps.com/alumni/donations) and make a donation by credit card.**

In the upcoming weeks pictures will be available on the Alumni website at [www.ridgecrestcamps.com/alumni](http://www.ridgecrestcamps.com/alumni).

If you have any questions or if you would like to make an in-kind contribution, please contact Jackson Norton, Director, at [jacksonnorton@hotmail.com](mailto:jacksonnorton@hotmail.com) or 706-781-5885.

Thanks for your support of Camp Ridgecrest!



Alan Sanders, Chair  
Chapel Committee



**A BIG DAY AT CAMP** (clockwise from left) » Beth Olson, long-time Camp nurse, prepares to fell a tree at the site of the new Chapel. Beth had never used a chainsaw before, but had great fun learning a new skill. • Ron Springs, Director, used the silver shovel he was given back in 2000 in anticipation of the Chapel groundbreaking, to turn the first pile of dirt. • Three alumni present when Spilman

Lodge opened in 1942, David Haughton, Dick Burts, and Hewlett Sullivan (left to right) had the honor of turning the dirt just after Ron.



As true from the beginning, 100% of the funds received will be used in the construction or furnishings of the chapel. Camp Ridgecrest Alumni & Friends, Inc. is a corporation organized under the laws of North Carolina, and the Internal Revenue Service, under IRC Section 501(c) (3), has officially recognized its non-profit status. Under most circumstances, financial and in-kind gifts to the association are income tax deductible.